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C.G.GUNTHER'S SONS

184 FIFTH AVE. NEW YORK.



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C. G. GUNTHER'S SONS



PARIS
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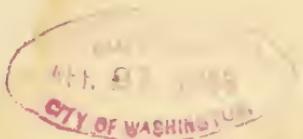


FURRIERS

184 FIFTH AVENUE

NEW YORK

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PREFACE.

MESSRS. C. G. GUNTHER'S SONS have been induced to publish the following illustrated and descriptive pamphlet, under the impression that a misapprehension exists as to the uses of really good furs, and also to afford their customers an opportunity of becoming acquainted with the different sorts of skins and some of their distinctive characteristics, misnomers being of frequent occurrence, and the opportunity for misrepresentation being very great.

Messrs. C. G. Gunther's Sons now take the liberty of referring to their exceptional facilities for securing rare furs, skins and pelts; owing to their connections of nearly a century's duration with many of the most prominent houses in Europe, Asia and Africa, and their Agents and Agencies in these different countries, their opportunities for obtaining the different skins in large quantities and at low figures are therefore unequalled.

The manufacturing of these skins into articles of apparel and luxe is an industry apart from all others (*sui generis*) and requiring much knowledge and experience, as the stability as well as the appearance of most furs depends much upon the mode of curing, drying and making up.

Of all the industries, that of manufacturing the pelts of animals into articles for the use of mankind, is the most ancient, and hardly a country exists in which, to some extent, the skins of different beasts are not so used at the present time.

From the Arctic Circle, where furs are a necessity of existence, to the tropics, and again southward into the Antarctic regions, the furs of wild animals have, from time immemorial, contributed to the needs and the comfort of mankind, and even in the Temperate Zone, we have learned to thoroughly appreciate the luxury and utility of furs, in view of the sudden changes of temperature to which the vagaries of our climate subject us.

The following pages will, we trust, furnish desirable information to those contemplating the purchase of furs in any form, and we would be much pleased to furnish any additional facts or details that may be desired. When customers are known to the house, or satisfactory references are given goods will be sent on approbation.



THE BEAVER.

CASTOR FIBER. FR., BIEVRE. GR., BIR.

Habitat:—North America in the higher latitudes, especially Canada; also, to less extent, in Northern Europe and Asia.

AN animal of wonderful sagacity, having been credited by some writers with being so intelligent and rational as to lack only the faculty of speech to place it on an equality with man. Indian tradition ascribes to the Beavers the power of speech, while Buffon, in his charming stories, has endowed them with almost supernatural attributes. This astuteness is exaggerated, as the Beaver is not more intelligent than many other animals. Its reputation has undoubtedly arisen from its wonderful skill in constructing its lodges and dams.

This rodent differs from others of the same family in that it has palmated hind feet, and a broad, trowel-like tail. These characteristics fit it for its burrowing and building habits. Its fur is mostly of a chestnut-brown on the back, graduating to a lighter shade on the sides. As commonly used, the long, stiff upper hairs are plucked out, as with the Seal. In its natural state it is very beautiful and much in vogue.

The Beaver is an amphibious animal, and, while swimming, its tail serves both as a rudder and an oar, being turned under the body at right angles and swung from side to side like the sculling of a boat. The cone-shaped huts of the Beaver are intended to accommodate ten or twelve animals. When these are finished the beavers set about building their dam, for the purpose of raising the water-level and submerging the greater part of their huts. Trees of all sizes, under ten inches in diameter, are felled by the big, chisel-like teeth of the Beavers, cut into suitable lengths, transported to the site of the dam, and so filled in with mud, stones and grass that little water can run through. When these dams are completed they are often six or eight feet high and from six to thirty rods long. They are so uniform in height that the water drops from them evenly from end to end.

Many imitations of the fur exist, and are actually made to usurp its name. These imitations are made to resemble the appearance of the real Beaver, but are inferior in richness and durability.

Beavers are much in use for muffs and trimmings, and also for robes and gentlemen's coat trimmings. Some skins are colored to resemble the Seal, but the fur is much longer, and as the process of dyeing is apt to make the pelt tender, it is not recommended.



THE FOX.

CANIS VULPES.

Habitat :—All latitudes, especially North.

A MOST valuable fur-bearing animal, on account of the beauty, variety and abundance of the different species. The Fox is a member of the Dog or Wolf family, and is carnivorous in its habits. This intelligent animal is the synonym of craftiness and shrewdness, with wonderfully acute senses of sight, smell and hearing. Its speed is very great, and its devices for escaping capture are remarkable. The most rare and costly of this variety of fur is that of the Silver Fox, for although found on two continents, only about 2,000 skins are annually secured. The fur is very soft and silky, and is principally used for muffs, trimmings, etc. The darkest skins are most valuable.

The Cross Fox ranks next in the commercial scale. By many it is considered a hybrid between the Red and the Silver

Fox, although it seems to be a permanent variety. The darkest skins are hardly to be distinguished from those of the lighter Silver Fox.

The Red Fox is the most common and abundant, and in many sections is considered a pest by poultry owners. Nevertheless, his lively color and graceful brush makes the skin of the Red Fox attractive and popular.

The White or Arctic Fox is found only in the frozen regions of the extreme North. Its fur is long, close and beautiful, and in winter is pure white, with the exception of a few dark hairs at the tip of the tail. It is nocturnal in its habits, and is alert, cunning and crafty.

The Blue Fox is found in the Alaskan Islands, Labrador and Greenland. The fur is very beautiful, and is prized on account of its slate or purple color.

The Gray Fox is found in Virginia and many of the Southern States. Its fur is serviceable and attractive.

Fox skins are used variously, the Silver and Blue Foxes principally for muffs, boas and trimming, while the White, Red and Gray Foxes are more used in robes.



THE ERMINE.

MUSTELA ERMINEA. FR., ERMINE.
GR., HERMELIN.

Habitat:—Russia and Siberia.

A MEMBER of the Weasel family, the Ermine is carnivorous in its habits and a most determined hunter, preying upon birds and small quadrupeds, and sucking the blood of its victims. In color, the Ermine in summer is a light reddish brown on the upper portions of the body, and lighter tinted or nearly white underneath. In winter, in extreme northern latitudes, its short dense fur changes to a delicate cream white, in all parts of the body except the tip of his tail, which is black.

It is only in the coldest parts of Russia and Siberia that the fur becomes sufficiently blanched to be of great commercial value. The Ermine was formerly monopolized by the royal

families and nobility of Europe, but now finds its way into the general market.

The Ermine destroys many Hares, and although as compared with them its speed is slow, it is so tenacious and enduring in the chase that it generally runs down its victim at last. It is said that the Hare loses courage and energy when it discovers that the Ermine is on its track, and falls an easy prey to its pursuer when it might readily escape by its superior swiftness. In its pursuit of birds the Ermine is known to have continued fighting with its winged prey at a considerable distance from the earth.

It is a very small animal, the length of its body being only from eight to twelve inches. The finest skins come from the Province of Yakutsk, and form a part of the tribute to the crown.

The fur of the Ermine is the emblem of purity and justice. In its general use it is made into robes, mantle linings, muffs, trimmings, etc.



THE RACCOON.

PROCYON LOTOR. FR., MARMOTTE. GER., WASCHBÄR
OR SCHUPPE.

Habitat:—United States and British Columbia.

A SMALL and interesting member of the Bear family. Chiefly nocturnal in its habits and an omnivorous feeder, living on nuts, green corn, eggs, mice, frogs, etc. It is an expert climber, and lives in hollow trees, with the entrance at a considerable height from the ground. Its body, which is about two feet long, is thick and stout like the Badger's; its head resembles that of the Fox, and its bushy tail is darkly ringed. Its fur is a grayish yellow, streaked and barred with darker colors and overlaid with longer black and white hairs.

Its flesh is palatable, and its fur was much used by the early settlers of this country for making caps, from which the tail was

allowed to hang as a picturesque ornament. Like the members of the Bear family, it very generally hibernates. The Raccoon has the peculiar habit of washing its food in water before devouring it, and from this singular characteristic its German name, "Wasch-bär," is derived. It is particularly fond of rambling about the small streams and marshes in search of frogs, shell-fish and turtles.

'Coon hunting by night is considered rare sport in many sections of the country. The Raccoon is not swift, and if pursued takes to a tree, when it may be readily killed. In an old work entitled "America," the following interesting description of this animal occurs: "The Rockoone is a deep Furr'd Beast, not much unlike a Badger, having a Tail like a Fox, as good meat as a Lamb. These Beasts, in the day time, sleep in hollow Trees, in a moon-shine night they go to feed on clams at a low tide, by the seaside, when the English hunt them with their Dogs."

There is another species known as the South American or crab-eating Raccoon, somewhat smaller than the North American variety and redder in color. Its fur, however, is harsh and coarse, and less valuable than the common Raccoon. The fur of the Raccoon is serviceable and makes handsome robes and rugs. When colored, it is largely used for coachmen's capes, caps, collars and gloves, and resembles the Black Bear, being, however, much less expensive.



THE WOLVERINE.

GULO LUSCUS. FR., GLOUTON. GER., VIELFRASS.

Habitat:—Northern parts of America, Asia and Europe.

A CARNIVOROUS animal, resembling the Bear in general appearance and movements, while its head bears a strong likeness to the Fisher. The Wolverine is a fierce and dangerous animal when wounded or cornered, as it is powerfully built and possesses great strength. The prevailing color of the fur is dark brown, but a broad stripe of yellowish brown sweeps from the shoulders along each side, terminating at the root of the tail, and forming a sort of saddle, so to speak. The fur is long and soft, and when a number of the skins are put together, makes a rich and striking robe. This fur has enhanced in value of late years, partly on account of its scarcity and partly because its serviceable quality is becoming better appreciated. The Wolverine is

said to be on the way to extermination. It is a great mischief-maker to the trapper, following a line of traps for miles, tearing down the "dead falls," and devouring the bait from the traps and the animals that have been caught in them. It is also very apt at discovering and destroying cachés of provisions, and on account of its cunning and sagacity, as well as its destructive propensities, the Indians call the Wolverine the "Devil," or the "Evil One."

It is not a fleet animal, but is very tenacious in the pursuit of its prey. It hunts hares, mice and birds, but frequently attacks larger quadrupeds or disabled deer. It makes its home in the thickest woods, and can only be trapped with difficulty. The trappers frequently destroy them by the use of strychnine or some other form of poison.

Muffs and trimmings made from the dark spot on back and taped are extremely beautiful.



THE SABLE.

MUSTELLA ZIBELLINA. FR., MARTRE ZIBELLINE.
GR., ZOBEL.

Habitat:—Asiatic Russia, Siberia, Kamtschatka.

THE Sable is one of the Marten or Weasel family, and remarkable for the beauty of its fur, which is a rich soft brown, and of a color unapproachable in other skins or in fabrics. The fur is valuable in proportion as it is dark in color. If very dark, it is termed Imperial Russian Sable, and formerly was retained for the exclusive use of the Imperial family of Russia. There are many grades of these skins, and some of them bring comparatively low prices, although they are extremely beautiful. These lighter skins we have seen colored in so skillful a manner

that only an expert could detect the imposture. They are then sold for natural skins, but fade rapidly and lose their color. Russian Sable skins are largely used for muffs, boas and trimmings, and sometimes cloaks and mantles.

The Hudson Bay Sable (*Mustela Canadensis*), or Marten, belongs to the above family, but is much inferior in point of size, color and quality of fur. It is indigenous to North America, but only in the Northern latitudes. In color it is light brown, like its Russian prototype, but of a rather reddish hue. The Hudson Bay Sable is of great value for coat linings when light in color, while the darker skins are made into muffs, boas, capes, etc., and approximate so closely to the Russian that they are distinguished apart with difficulty.

STONE MARTEN.

THE Stone Marten is of the same genus. It is found in the mountains of Greece, Valentia and adjacent countries. It is of a light stone color, with brown top hair, is extremely beautiful, and much in use for muffs, cravattes, boas and trimmings.

FITCH.

To this family also belongs the Fitch, of a light orange color, with black points, most vivid in its coloring, and largely used in Europe for coat linings.



THE FISHER.

MUSTELA PENNANTI. FR., PECAN. GR.,
VIRGINISCHER, ILTISS.

Habitat :—*Strictly North American; all latitudes.*

THE Fisher, sometimes known as Pennant's Marten, belongs to the Weasel family, and resembles both the Marten and the Wolverine in its habits and appearance, although much larger than the one and smaller than the other. It is a carnivorous animal, preying upon birds and small quadrupeds, and sometimes varying its diet, as its name would indicate, with fish, watching for them from some log or stone overhanging the water, and plunging in suddenly to secure the coveted food.

The fur is a rich dark brown color, sometimes almost black, and the tail is black and bushy. Fishers are most abundant in the cold snowy regions of the North, and are generally nocturnal in their habits. They are of sturdy build, exceedingly powerful for their size, and are good climbers.

The Fisher, although an expert and active climber, does not live so exclusively in the woods as the Marten. Except when providing food for their young the Fishers are nocturnal in their habits. In their method of locomotion they resemble the Mink, that is, advancing by short hops. Like the Wolverine, the Fisher is a pest to the trapper, following a line of traps assiduously and robbing them of bait.

When caught they show a sullen and spiteful disposition, even the young being very savage. They emit a strong, musky odor, which is unpleasant to some, and which clings about the fur for a long time. The fur is used in Europe for coat linings and robes.

With us the articles most in use made from these skins are muffs and boas, while the tails are largely used for trimmings.



THE MINK.

MUSTELA VISON. FR., VISON. GR., WERZ.

Habitat:—All the higher latitudes.

THIS sleek little animal is a member of the Weasel tribe, and resembles the Ferret and the Ermine in its movements and appearance. It is carnivorous, and to a certain extent amphibious, living on the banks of streams and getting most of its food from them. Its fur, which is a dark brown, is both valuable and popular, being short, dense and fine. The body of the Mink is very slender, and about twelve to fifteen inches in length. The largest and finest skins come from Labrador and Northern Canada. Farther South the fur is of a lighter hue. Among the Indians this skin is used as a totem or crest.

The Mink is rambling in his habits and is a most expert swimmer, easily catching fish in their native element. He also possesses a remarkably keen scent, and hunters take advantage

of this and lure him with traps upon which some artificial scent has been sprinkled.

The Mink is easily tamed, and is capable of strong attachment.

The female Mink secretes her young until they attain half their growth, as their unnatural father will destroy them if he finds the opportunity. Like all the Weasel family, the Mink is very tenacious of life. He is cunning and mischievous; nevertheless, he does not display the spirit of pure destructiveness by killing more than enough to satisfy his appetite.

In taking these and other valuable fur-bearing animals the trapper usually attaches his trap to a spring-pole strong enough to lift the animal, when caught, out of the way of predatory quadrupeds; or, if the trap is set near deep water, it is attached to a sliding pole, which secures the animal by drowning it.

Muffs, boas, capes and jackets are made from this skin, as are also coat and cloak linings; in fact, it is susceptible of being made into almost any article of apparel, the pelt being very soft and pliable.



THE CHINCHILLA.

CHINCHILLA BREVICANDATA. FR., CHINCHILLE. GR.,
CHINCHILLA.

Habitat :—Peru, Bolivia and Chili.

A LITTLE animal, from eight to ten inches in length, and belonging to the genus *Jerboidæ*. It is characterized by the great comparative length of the hind legs, and it produces the most delicate and silken fur of all the fur-bearing animals. In color it is a delicate clear gray upon the back, softening to a grayish white underneath. The fur is rather long, and wonderfully soft and fine in texture, being much sought after for making muffs, boas, trimmings and linings for cloaks.

The Chinchillas burrow in the valleys in the hilly regions which they inhabit, collecting in great numbers in the most

favored localities. At the end of the burrow they make a neat nest of herbage. It is said that as a precaution they dig an additional tunnel almost to the surface, so that in case of necessity they may break through and escape.

In common with other members of the *Jerboidæ*, the Chinchilla, in its movements and external conformation, bears some resemblance to the Kangaroo. When alarmed or pursued it escapes by means of prodigious leaps. When standing, as it often does, on its hind legs, the Chinchilla uses its long tail to help support itself in this position. In feeding it carries its food to its mouth with its paws, like the Squirrel.

It is difficult to keep the Chinchilla confined, as it gnaws through the hardest wood with ease. It is susceptible to cold, and repairs to its burrow at the beginning of the cold or rainy season.

This interesting little creature is a strict vegetarian, its food consisting almost entirely of bulbous roots. It is scrupulously clean in its habits, and most assiduous in the care of its coat. The skins obtained from Chili are the best.

There are different varieties of the Chinchilla, some being very poor in fur and leather; these are in the trade termed Bastards.

Chinchilla skins are largely used for muffs, collars and trimmings, and sometimes for cloak linings.



THE LYNX.

FELIS CANADENSIS. FR., LOUP CERVIER. GER., LUCHS.

Habitat:—North America, from latitude of Northern New York to within the Arctic Circle; also Europe.

A RATHER prominent representative of the feline race, carnivorous in its habits, and of powerful build. It is supposed to have a prototype in Northeastern Asia. Its size is between that of a Fox and a Wolf, and it is armed with vicious-looking claws. The fur in winter is long and silky, silver-gray on the back, shading to lighter tints underneath. Its short tail and pointed ears are tipped with black, and it has a collar or ruff of fur about the throat. It is a good climber, and makes its home in the darkest forests. It is cowardly and easily killed. The keenness of its sight has long been proverbial, but it is a rather stupid animal and easily trapped.

When running it presents a singular appearance, as it leaps in successive bounds, all its feet striking the earth at the same time. It is a good swimmer, and when hard pressed by dogs

defends itself vigorously. Unlike all other members of the feline race, its flesh is said to be excellent eating.

These skins are used in their natural state, principally for robes; whereas, when colored, very beautiful muffs, boas, collars and trimmings are made from them.

THE WILD CAT.

FELIS RUFA. FR., CHAT CERVIER. GER., LUDIS KATZE.

Habitat:—Upper latitudes of North America.

A CARNIVOROUS and largely nocturnal animal of the *Lynx* species, in color yellowish-brown, with overlying gray hairs and a ruff of hair about the throat. The coat is marked with obscure spots on the sides and indistinct longitudinal stripes along the middle of the back.

The Wild Cat has a peculiarly harsh and unpleasant cry, not altogether inappropriate to its grawsome surroundings, as it makes its home in the darkest cedar and hemlock swamps. It is a cowardly animal, unless cornered or robbed of its young; at such times it defends itself viciously. It preys chiefly upon small quadrupeds and birds.

The principal use to which this animal is put is for robes though many of them are colored as an imitation of the *Lynx*.



THE SKUNK.

MEPHITIS MEPHITICA.

Habitat:—General in North America.

A RELATIVE of the Weasel, this nocturnal and largely carnivorous quadruped is a valuable fur-bearing animal, and, notwithstanding its unpopularity and its unsavory reputation, deserves attention. Its fur is in more general use than is commonly supposed. The prevailing colors are white and jet black, sharply defined, the blackest pelts being the most valuable.

In spite of its terribly effective means of offense and defense, it is scrupulously clean in its habits, and in its normal state the fur is as free from unpleasant odor as that of any other animal.

Epicures declare that its flesh is decidedly palatable, resembling chicken in its flavor.

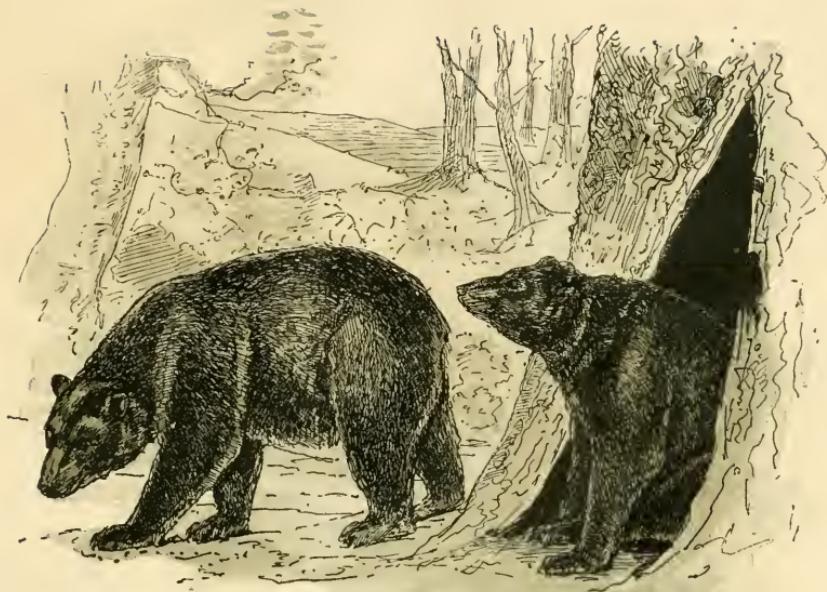
The Skunk walks with its back arched and its bushy tail erect, as though proud of its appearance. In the summer months it diligently searches the fields for mice and insects, sometimes preying on frogs and young birds. It is "a potent sucker of eggs" and a chicken-thief, and is disliked by the farmers on that account.

The Skunk is a most independent and fearless animal, and generally disdains to run, relying on its peculiar and potent means of defending itself from its enemies. When disturbed it walks or trots leisurely away. The great horned owl is its most dangerous and relentless foe and it is frequently killed by this feathered enemy.

As a destroyer of bugs, worms and other vermin, the Skunk performs a valuable service to the farmers, and is entitled to more friendship and protection than he gets.

The bite of the Skunk is said occasionally to cause hydrophobia. Charlevoix gave to this animal the title, "Enfant du Diable."

When properly dressed and cured, its appearance is most beautiful, and in articles such as muffs, collars, caps and trimming it is most attractive. It is also one of the most durable of all furs.



THE BEAR.

URSUS. AMERICANUS, BLACK BEAR. CINNAMONUM, CINNAMON BEAR. FEROX OR HORRIBILIS, GRIZZLY BEAR. MARITIMUS, POLAR BEAR. ISABELLA BEAR.

Habitat :—All Countries North of the Equator.

THE several species of this family are widely scattered, but are much the same in their habits and ways, being carnivorous, or, by necessity, omnivorous. As a class they are clumsy and possess a low order of intelligence, but are ferocious and powerful. It is held by many that all Bears hibernate, but this is at least open to question. The Black Bear is the most common, and its fur is valuable and attractive for robes, rugs, etc.

The Cinnamon Bear is larger than the black variety, and is considered by some naturalists to be only a species of the latter.

The Grizzly Bear is the most savage and fearless of its tribe, and is armed with long, strong claws. These are highly

prized by the Indians as a proof of bravery, and are worn by them as a decoration or badge of honor. The skin is thick and heavy, with a large hump of fur between the shoulders.

The Polar Bear, the largest of the entire genus, is found only in the icy regions of the extreme North. It sometimes attains a weight of 2,000 lbs. and upward. The incisors of the upper jaw are grooved, and those of the lower jaw fit in them, thus enabling it to hold its slippery prey. It is a bold fighter and very vindictive. The fur is very thick and almost pure white, and is very valuable for rugs, robes, etc.

Black Bear skins are used in rugs and mats, robes from the cubs, when the pelt is soft. Muffs, boas and trimming are made, also coachmen's caps, capes and gloves. The Cinnamon, Grizzly and Polar Bears are used almost exclusively in rugs and robes, but the Isabella Bear is most highly prized for use in ladies' goods, owing to the most beautiful color, with soft, rich fur.



THE BADGER (AMERICAN).

TAXIDEA AMERICANA. FR., BLAIREAU D'AMERIQUE.
GR., AMERIKANISCHER DACHS.

Habitat :—Higher latitudes of North America West of the Mississippi.

THE Badger is one of the smaller representatives of the Bear family, and is superior to the European Badger in the quality and fineness of its fur. It is omnivorous, and chiefly nocturnal in its habits, feeding upon roots, insects, frogs, etc. It also destroys the eggs and young of birds that build their nests on the ground.

The fur of the Badger has a sandy-gray appearance, which is due to three distinct colors on the hairs: yellowish-white at the roots, black in the middle, and ashy-gray at the ends. The coarse hairs, which are plucked out, are used for making the fine brushes of the oil-painter. A white stripe runs from the nose over the forehead to the shoulder. The Badger is of sturdy build, and the body is broad and flat, as though compressed. It

is armed with very strong claws, suitable for burrowing in the ground, digging for rabbits, and unearthing Marmots and ground Squirrels. The Badger chooses the most solitary forests for its residence, living in burrows. When pursued it commences digging in the earth, and, if too closely pressed, turns and backs into the hole it has made, and defies its pursuers. If it has time to get its body fairly buried it is secure from any dog, or even a man with a shovel, as it digs its way into the earth with surprising rapidity. Like other members of the Bear family, the Badger very generally hibernates, and is seldom seen while the ground is covered with snow. Although found throughout a wide range of country, it is a rather scarce animal, and its fur possesses considerable value.

When taken young they are easily tamed, and make desirable pets.

The fur of the Badger is long at the sides and short on the back ; it is principally used for muffs, boas and trimmings.



SEA OTTER.

EHHYDRA MARINA. FR., LOUTRE DE MER. GR.,
SEE OTTER.

Habitat:—Islands and Shores of the North Pacific Ocean.

AN amphibious animal, and the largest of the Otter family or group, often attaining a weight of 60 to 80 pounds. The fur of the Sea Otter is very beautiful and of great value, and as the animal is becoming scarce, the cost is annually increased. Its color is variable, but the general hue is almost black, or very dark brown, often interspersed with silver hair. Of all furs, it is one of the most highly esteemed.

This Otter lives mostly in the water, and resembles the Seal in its habits. It seldom visits the shore in the colder months, and only when the weather is stormy at sea. The female clasps her single offspring to her breast and stretches herself at full length on her back in the ocean when she wishes to sleep. The pup cannot live without its mother, and dies of self-imposed starvation if captured.

In the summer, the Sea Otter leaves the coast with its mate and follows up the course of the streams to their sources in the lakes of the interior, returning to the sea when cold weather approaches.

The Sea Otter is not a prolific animal, and is probably one of the few animals that are on the way to ultimate extinction. It is timid, and prefers the neighborhood of islands, where it can be sure of finding both food and shelter. It subsists chiefly upon fish, crustacea and mollusks.

In Northwestern America the Sea Otter is hunted in canoes ranged in a circle. When shot at it dives, and on reappearing, is shot at again until it is exhausted and can no longer remain under water.

These skins rank with the Russian Sable in point of value, and in respect to appearance it has no superior. It is principally used for trimmings of fur-lined coats, for muffs, collars and caps. It has great durability, and has been known to last, with care, for many years.



THE OTTER.

LUTRA CANADENSIS. FR., LOUTRE D'AMERIQUE. GR.,
AMERIKANISCHER OTTER.

Habitat:—Throughout the greater part of North America and Europe.

THE Otter is aquatic in his habits, living in and near streams and getting his subsistence from them. In appearance the Otter resembles a magnified Mink. The fur is short and very thick, and the color of the underlying hairs varies from a glossy brown to a light chestnut.

The Otter has webbed feet, is a strong and expert swimmer, and can remain under water a long time. His activity in this element enables him to take fish with ease. The Otters make their homes in the banks of streams, the entrance to their burrows being under water. They have a singular practice of

sliding down muddy banks and icy slopes, apparently for sport. The places where they thus play are called "Otter Slides."

In the winter they keep air-holes open in the ice, and are frequently seen near the edges, playing, sliding and catching fish.

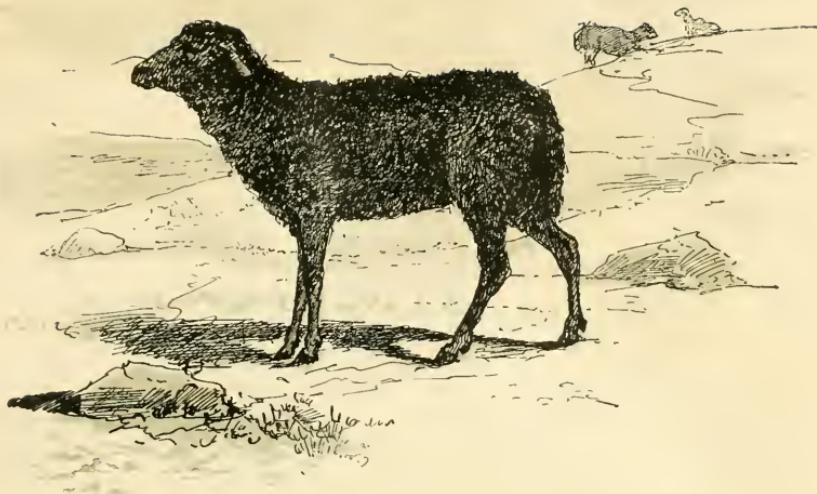
During the winter their migrations on land are toilsome, and they leave a deep furrow in the snow.

The Otter destroys many more fish than he can eat, for the mere pleasure of killing. His favorite game and food is the speckled trout, and he frequents the clear and rapid streams in search of this coveted morsel. It is said to be able to smell fish under water.

The Otter is susceptible of being tamed if caught young, and in India trained Otters are very common. Their owners put them to good use by causing them to drive the fish into their nets.

The value of their fur and the sport of hunting them with dogs, have caused the extinction of Otters in many parts of the world where they were very common. The European Otter, which is smaller than his American relative, is still found in Great Britain, and packs of Otter hounds are still kept in England.

The fur is highly prized and very generally sought after. It is principally used for coat trimmings, though in muffs and collars it is very beautiful and durable.



PERSIAN LAMB.

GENUS OVIS. FR., PERSIANNE. GR., PERSIANER.

Raised principally in Persia, Afghanistan and adjacent Countries.

THE Persian Sheep is one of the most ancient of all breeds, being closely allied to the primeval stock. Its color is black, brown, and sometimes white, and the skin of the lamb is very beautiful, being closely curled. As used, all these skins are dyed a brilliant black, and this can only be properly done in Germany. The Silken Persian is probably the very young of the same specie, while those called Breitschwaenze (Broad-tail), or Moire are supposed to be prematurely born, the parent animal's life being sacrificed for this purpose.

The moire antique, or watered silk, is said to have been copied from this beautiful and rare skin.

All of these furs, the Persian, Silken Persian and Moire Persian are extensively used for ladies' goods, such as jackets, mantles, capes, muffs and collars; while the Black Persian is also much in demand for gentlemen's furs, coat linings and facings, caps, etc.

In Russia, Hungary and Austria, these skins are also largely used for military purposes.

GRAY PERSIAN LAMB.

THE gray or pin-headed Persian Lamb is another variety of the Ovis family. Its use is limited, being principally in demand for children's goods.

KRIMMER.

THE Krimmer (Crimmer), or Crimean Lamb, deriving its name from the "Crimea," is gray or slate-colored, heavily furred, with a more or less tight curl; is much used for such articles as muffs, collars, capes and mantles.



ASTRACHAN LAMB.

GENUS OVIS.

Habitat :—Southern Russia and Central Asia.

THIS celebrated breed is found over a large expanse of country, is noted for its fine, spirally curled wool of a gray or mixed black and white color; the skins are colored black, and are largely used for muffs, collars, capes, mantles and jackets. They are much less expensive than the Persian Lamb, abound in far greater numbers, and are many of them of poor quality and inferior in appearance.

The natural color of this species of Ruminantia is a dirty white, with a fine gray wool underneath. The sheep are under the ordinary size. The horns of the ram are picturesque, being curved backward and spread at the tips. There is another Russian breed of the same genus which is without horns.

THE FUR SEAL.

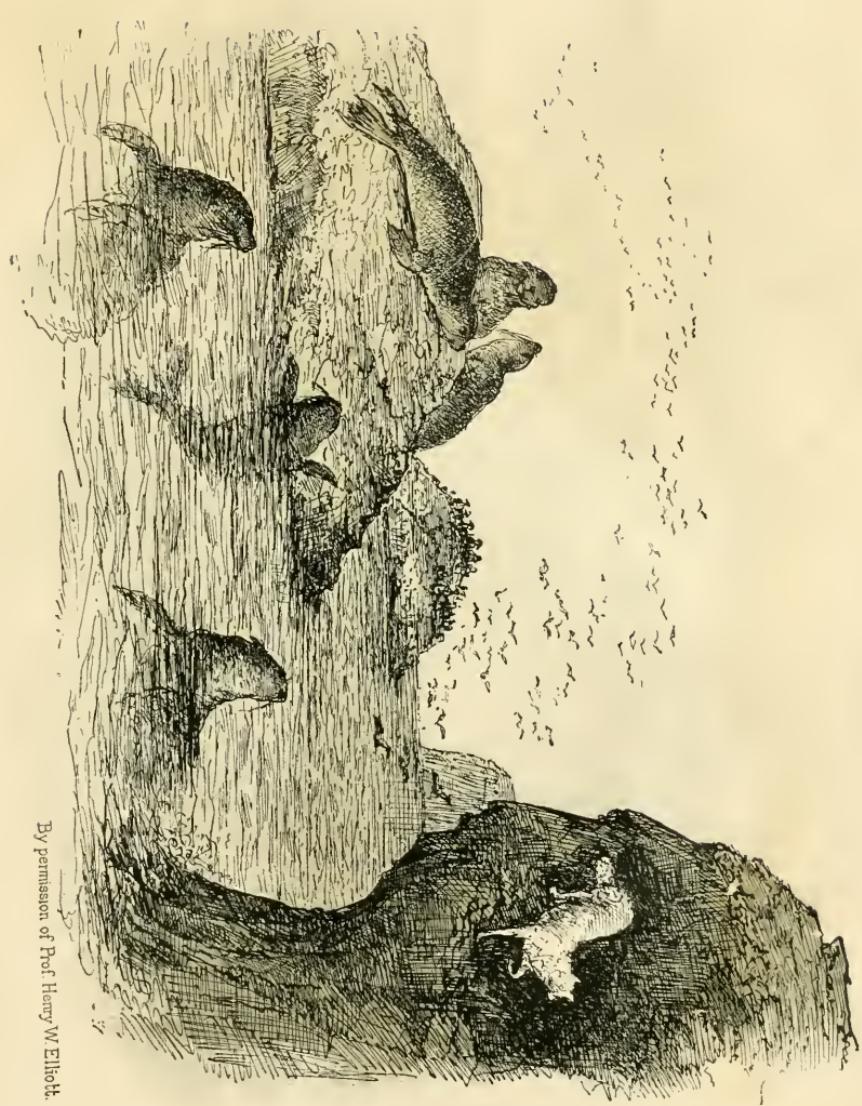
CALLORHINUS URSINUS. FR., LOUP MARIN. GR.,
SEEHUND.

Habitat:—South Shetland, Crozet and Pribylow Islands.

A HIGHLY organized and most intelligent animal, of the Pinnipedia order; a fur-bearing species, not to be confounded with others whose covering consists of hair only; the kind found in Newfoundland and elsewhere being of this latter order. The Fur Seal has a coat of gray hair, with a downy undergrowth of wool, yellowish in color. The outer or gray hairs are plucked out in treatment, leaving only the yellowish down, which is then colored, and this constitutes the skins from which Seal-skin jackets, etc., are made. This process is properly understood and worked only in England, and by experienced persons. It is therefore obvious that purchases of Seal garments should not be indiscriminately made.

The Fur Seal is an amphibious animal, and sleeps as well at sea as on land, floating on its back. It is very susceptible to heat, and suffers in a temperature above forty degrees. On warm days it has a singular habit of fanning itself with its hind flippers.

The Seal skin is worth all the time and labor which must be put upon it. It is impervious to cold, a wetting cannot hurt it, its strength and toughness make it serviceable to the last degree, and its beauty is beyond question.



By permission of Prof. Henry W. Elliott.

Of all furs, the Seal is most suitable for articles such as jackets, mantles, cloaks, etc., as it is readily formed to fit the body, and is not cumbersome in appearance.

The Alaska Seal is most highly valued; the so-called Northwest Coast Seals being about identical as to quality, etc. Those from Copper Island (one of the Aleutian group, close to Kamtschatka) are next in point of excellence, while the Lobos Island (Cape Horn), Robben Island and Japanese, etc., are inferior in quality. The Shetland Seal, now almost unknown, are skins of great beauty, but not as durable as the Alaskas.

As there are twenty-one different qualities or grades in colored Sealskins, it is self-evident that not every one is a judge of these goods.



THE WOLF.

CANIS. LUPUS, EUROPEAN WOLF. LUPUS OCCIDENTALIS,
AMERICAN WOLF. LATRANS, PRAIRIE WOLF.

Habitat:—Europe, Asia and America, in the middle and higher altitudes.

THE European Wolf is found in Spain, France, Russia, Hungary and Germany. A thoroughly carnivorous animal of the canine family, about the size of a large dog. The European Wolf is more fierce than his American cousin, and often attacks man without fear. In Russia, especially, this animal attains a large size, and when pressed with hunger is dangerous. The general color of the common European Wolf is a brownish-red, although in the North he takes on a grayish coat. Black Wolves are more common in Southern than in Northern Europe.

The Wolf is subject to hydrophobia, and its bite is then more fatal than that of a mad dog. In olden times, in wild and thinly settled districts, places of refuge from Wolves were erected for the protection of travelers. The fur of the European Wolf is overlaid with long black hairs, and the under fur is dense and of a bluish tinge.

The American Wolf (*Lupus Occidentalis*) is similar in habits and appearance to the European species, but varies in color in different localities from black, through shades of gray, to white, the latter only found in extreme Northern latitudes. The American Wolf combines cowardice with ferocity in its character. Lean and gaunt, they are nevertheless fleet and powerful. They hunt mostly in packs, following for days herds of Deer or Buffalo, and making up in persistence and numbers what they lack in individual strength. When roaming singly they are sneaking and shy. The fur is rather handsome, and is very serviceable for robes and rugs.

The Prairie Wolf (*Latrans*) or Coyote, as he is called in the West, is a small and insignificant member of the Wolf family. Scarcely larger than a Fox, wary and cowardly, he is dangerous only to small quadrupeds or the weak and sickly members of the herds of larger animals. In color the Prairie Wolf is dark grizzly or gray. The tail is tipped with black, and the fur is long, harsh and dense. This species is chiefly found on the Western plains.



THE TIGER.

FELIS TIGRIS. FR., LE TIGRE. GR., DER TIGER.

Habitat:—India and Southern Asia.

A CARNIVOROUS animal of the feline family, and the largest and most powerful species excepting the Lion. There are two well defined varieties, the Bengal and Mongolian or Chinese Tiger. The former is most numerous, and distinguished by its bright markings. The color of the body is a rich yellow, with transverse dark colored or black stripes. The fur is short and lies close to the skin, and the tail is long and dark-ringed. The Tiger is of amazing strength, and kills and drags off a horse or Buffalo with little difficulty. They soon acquire an especial

fondness for human flesh, and certain sections of Asia are terribly infested with them.

The Mongolian Tiger is somewhat less ferocious than his Bengal relative, the fur is thicker and longer, and the stripes are less black. The general color is a tawny-yellow, and a fringe of black and white fur, three to four inches long, surrounds the face.

Tiger skins make extremely rich and striking rugs, especially when the head is retained in its natural appearance. In some parts of India the Tiger is protected by the superstition of the natives, who regard it as a sacred animal, animated by the souls of their dead ancestors. In China, the Tiger's claw is supposed to afford protection against all misfortune, and the scrapings therefrom are universally believed to be a panacea for all bodily ills.

As the Lion is the scourge of Africa, so the Tiger occupies the same bad eminence in India and Southern Asia. Portions of Sumatra have been almost depopulated by them, and in many localities the inhabitants are kept in a constant state of terror by the depredations of these "man-eaters." In 1888, ten hundred and sixty-three persons were known to have been killed by Tigers in India alone.

The colors of the Tiger's body assimilate so well with its surroundings and the rank undergrowth of the jungles that it is not readily seen when quiet, and is on this account the more dangerous.

Albinos, or white Tigers, have occasionally been found, but they are extremely rare.



THE PANTHER.

FELIS CONCOLOR. FR., LE COUGOUAR. GR., KUGUAR.

Habitat :—All America, from Canada to Patagonia.

THE Panther is a carnivorous and nocturnal animal, and the largest of the cat family found on the Western Continent, being frequently called the Lion of America. It is also known as the Puma, or Cougar.

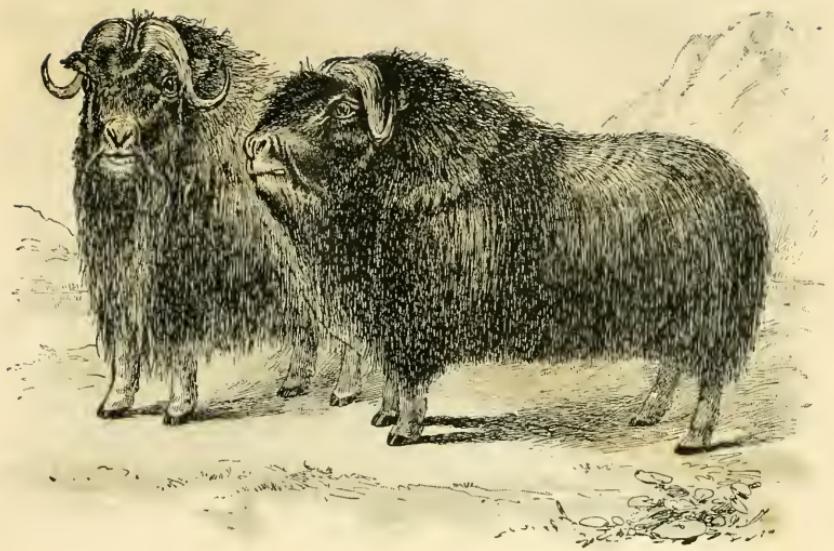
It is of a uniform light dun color, shading to a lighter hue on the belly and chest. It often attains great size, and is armed with heavy claws and well-developed canine teeth. The Panther feeds largely upon Deer, pouncing upon his prey from some tree or overhanging rock. It is swift, subtle, and exceedingly powerful, but is rather cowardly, as a rule, and seldom attacks man unless wounded or robbed of its young. It generally makes its home in well-nigh inaccessible ledges. It is an expert

climber, and usually takes to a tree when pursued by dogs. In South America its favorite haunts are the vast grassy plains, where it destroys great numbers of wild cattle.

It is asserted by hunters that each Panther destroys as many as two Deer per week, and a pair of these fierce and active animals have been known to attack and kill a full-grown Moose. They are not satisfied to kill merely enough to supply the demands of their voracious appetite, but frequently destroy great numbers of sheep or young cattle from sheer wantonness and bloodthirstiness.

The cry of the Panther in the forest at night is a blood-curdling sound, and is said to inspire other animals with terror. It has been likened to the scream of a woman in great fear or distress. When pressed with hunger it sometimes visits the remote farm houses, and kills and carries off the live stock. It fears the fire, and hunters and travelers protect themselves from its attack by building fires in a circle around them.

The fur is chiefly valuable for robes and rugs.



THE MUSK OX.

OVIBUS MOSCHATUS. FR., BOEUF MUSQUÉ. GR.,
BISAMSTIER.

*Habitat:—North East Greenland, Upper Canada, Melville Island,
between 61st and 75th degrees of latitude.*

THIS singular animal of the Ungulata group resembles the Sheep rather than the Ox. The curious shape of the horns and the long woolly hair, reaching nearly to the ground, give it a very peculiar appearance. It is from three to four feet in height, and dark brown in color, excepting the feet, which are usually white. It is very fleet and active, easily traversing rough ground over which no pursuer can follow. It is irritable and dangerous when cornered, often turning and charging upon its enemy and thus escaping. It is a smaller animal than it appears, on

account of its thick covering, which is more dense and impenetrable to cold than that of any other quadruped. The horns form a sort of helmet on its forehead, being very large at the base, dropping suddenly, and hooked at the ends, which are very sharp-pointed. Its flesh is palatable, although it has a flavor of Musk at certain seasons. The Musk Ox is a rather stupid animal, and is not afraid of the sound of a gun unless it sees the man who fires it. It feeds chiefly on lichens, willows, etc.

A good, mounted specimen of the Musk Ox is extremely rare, for the reason that the natives religiously cut off the heads of all the animals or hides they send to market, as they have a superstition that if the head of the animal is allowed to go out of the country in which it lives, the entire Musk Ox species will become extinct. Even so great and enthusiastic a naturalist as Audubon never saw one of these animals alive. The skins are highly prized in Canada for sleigh robes.



THE LION.

FELIS LEO. FR., LE LEON. GR., DER LOWE.

Habitat:—Africa. Rare in Asia.

THE largest and most powerful of the feline race. His great strength and ferocity when aroused has properly entitled him to the name of "King of Beasts." The Lion is carnivorous and mostly nocturnal in his habits. The body is about five feet long, and the color of the hair is a tawny-brown. The tail is long and tipped with black hair, and the male possesses a heavy mane, which adds to the majesty of his appearance and is probably a protection when fighting. The roar of the Lion is one of the most impressive sounds in nature and is said to have a marked effect on other animals. The Lioness is smaller than her mate, but, if anything, more savage. Unlike others of the cat tribe,

the Lion is permanently attached to his mate, and protects his young more generally.

In ancient times the Lion occupied a wider range and more northern latitude than at present.

Lions approach their prey stealthily and spring upon it un-awares. Human beings are not exempt from their attacks, and they soon acquire a special fondness for this sort of food. Unlike others of the cat tribe, however, the Lion only kills enough to satisfy his appetite, and does not slaughter his victims from pure wantonness, as does the Tiger or Panther. According to Gerard, the French Lion hunter of North Africa, the average length of life of the Lion is thirty-five years, and during each year he destroys horses, cattle, camels and sheep to the value of \$1,200; therefore each Lion costs the inhabitants of that country \$42,000. The strength of the Lion is something passing belief. It has been known to carry or drag a horse a mile from where he had killed it, and the power of his jaws is sufficient to break the largest bones.

Lion hunting was a favorite sport of the Assyrian Kings. The Lions were liberated from cages and were shot with arrows by the King from his chariot.

Generally used as rugs or as full mounted specimens. But few are procurable.



THE LEOPARD.

FR., LE LEOPARD. GR., DER LEOPARD.

Habitat:—South Africa and the East Indies.

A CARNIVOROUS and predatory animal of the feline genus, approaching the Tiger in size and ferocity. It is celebrated for the beauty of its skin and the grace and agility of its movements. The usual color is brownish yellow; the spots are numerous, and are black with light-colored centres. The hair is very short and rather harsh. It is a good climber, crafty, and very fierce when wounded or hungry. It haunts the forest where high under-growth prevails.

Most generally used for rugs, which are extremely beautiful.

To this species belongs the JAGUAR of South America, the largest of all Leopards, beautifully marked yellow and black, with open circles of black containing a central black dot, the circles disposed in five or six parallel horizontal lines.

THE OUNCE.

FELIS UNCIA. FR., L'ONCE. GR., IRBISO OR UNZE.

Habitat:—Cashmere, the Himalayas, Central Asia.

SEPARATE species from the Leopard, although about the same size. In general color it is almost white, with spots of a darker color, with thick pale fur two inches long; long tail, densely furred and marked with faint rings.

Used only for rugs, being beautiful and extremely rare.

CLOUDED TIGER

FELIS MACROCELIS.

Habitat:—China and Assam.

A VERY beautiful animal, and a member of the Leopard family. Graceful in movement and striking in appearance. It is a rare species, large in size. The fur is rich and velvety, long and fine. The tail is ringed, and the fur is marked with numerous cloud-like figures irregularly placed. Although a powerful animal, in disposition is rather gentle.

We know of but one specimen in the United States, and that is in our possession mounted as a rug.

THE OCELOT.

FELIS PARDALIS. FR., L'OCELOT. GR., OZELOT.

Habitat:—British Honduras and South America, Central America and extreme southern part of United States.

THIS graceful animal, of the genus Felidae, is carnivorous, and generally nocturnal in its habits, like all of the cat tribe. In color it varies considerably, but usually the pelt is light-gray, with dark, oblong spots, with drab centres. The tail is rather short and partly ringed. The Ocelot is a very active animal and an expert climber. When pursued it runs on the ground like a fox, only taking to the trees as a last resort. In size it resembles the Bay Lynx, and is the most beautiful of all the feline race in North America.

Its fur is used principally for rugs.



THE BUFFALO.

BISON AMERICANUS. FR., BISON. GR., BÜFFEL.

Habitat:—North America in the Far West. Never North of latitude 33 degrees.

A NOBLE animal, of the Bovine species, and formerly very abundant. It is now largely exterminated, being practically reduced to a few scattered herds in Southern Canada and the Yellowstone Park, probably numbering less than 500, all told, in the United States. Up to 1875 it existed in countless herds on the Western plains, and was valuable alike to the Indian and white man, whose needs, in the way of food and clothing, it

supplied. From 1871 to 1874 it is estimated that between 4,000,000 and 4,500,000 of these animals were recklessly killed, merely for the sake of the hide. The flesh of the Buffalo is juicy and palatable, and the fat is similar to that of the Green Turtle.

The most delicate part is the hump, which is conspicuous on the back. The male Buffalo is $4\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 feet high at the shoulders, but much lower at the flank. The head and shoulders are covered with a dense mane of curly dark brown hair, which adds to its fierce and majestic appearance. The general color of the animal is a drab-brown, and the fur or hair is very warm and valuable for robes and coats.

The extinction of the Buffalo has created among the Indians a need which must now be supplied by the United States Government, in the shape of meat rations. Among many tribes the tradition exists that the Great Spirit will sooner or later bring back the Buffaloes to the Western plains, and that when that occurs the white man's supremacy will cease, and the red men will again possess the land of which they have been deprived. The Indians excel all others in dressing the skin. The Buffalo is active and enduring, and is usually hunted on horseback. White Buffalo have been seen and captured, but have always been very rare. The head of the male Buffalo is in great demand as a mural ornament.





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